

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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N. R. P. A.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Congress should first recognize the struggling masses of American citizens as belligerents, and then see what can be done for the Cubans.

If our legislature elects a gold man to the Senate it will end the career of every member of the legislature who votes for him and it ought to.

Shorn of his power, Cleveland is now simply a dangerous and troublesome derelict floating around in the political waters, and McKinley will be the same shortly after he goes in.

Say, neighbor, are you talking to your neighbor about that special Alliance meeting on January 9th? You ought to. The members of every Sub Alliance in the State ought to get together on that date.

Several Sub Alliances have suggested that the Executive Committee use enough of the Business Agency fund to start the shoe factory. We think that a mistake. Let the shoe factory be run by stockholders' fund. It can be raised if the brethren mean business, and we think they do.

The population of Ohio is 3,825,000. The total vote cast there this year amounted to 1,100,000. It is generally conceded that the voters average one to five in our population. But Ohio comes up with one voter to 3 1/2 or thereabouts. Fraud is plainly apparent there as well as in other Central States.

A large number of Alliancemen hold county and State offices and are in a position to take a liberal amount of stock in the Alliance shoe factory. It will be a good idea to watch and see whether or not they attend the special Sub Alliance meetings on January 9th and whether they take any stock not. Watch as well as pray. Test their sincerity.

Some of the Democratic Congressmen from Texas must be sweet birds. Congressman Crowley, of that State, was arrested for alleged brutal treatment of an old woman organ grinder on Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, one night last week. He was arrested and locked up in the 12th street station house. He was detained until midnight. The Congressman remarked at the station house that he had been arrested seven hundred times in Texas and had no objection to a little gayety along that line.

The shipment of fruits from Mexico to the United States is destined to be one of the most important features of our international trade within a few years. The number of cars of oranges sent to the States this year by the Mexican Central one is almost double that of last year. Mexican oranges are ready for the market almost two months before those raised in Florida and California, and with this advantage they will have no difficulty in finding ready sale. The country around Tampico raises the finest bananas in the world. The natives of that section are planting many trees, and as they bear within a year, Mexican bananas will doubtless be better known in the American markets before long.

WILL GOOD TIMES COME?

We hope so. But there will be no genuine revival of business until plutocracy is driven from power, and it is now on its last legs. The people cannot be deceived much longer. They have learned that the goldbugs are plain, unvarnished prevaricators. When they declare that good times are coming by their route, worse times always follow. Until water begins to run uphill there can be no prosperity with falling prices and a diminishing currency. Year after year the gold bugs continue to lie. But they have overdone the business. Their remedies have the same effect salt has on a fresh wound. The Alliance and the People's party have the only solution of the vexed question and our theories are growing in favor every day. We look for a little improvement about the first of January. Business will start off on a conservative basis. A majority of the people are learning economy and adjusting themselves to the changed conditions. The farmers are now in a better condition as a whole than anybody else. They have enough to live upon. In the cities there is actual hunger among the very poor and many others are forced to the most rigid economy. The city man, with a few exceptions, has gotten his eyes open. He is no longer disposed to jeer at the theories of the "hayseeder," for the city man now knows that the complaints of the farmers were just. Political intolerance is dying out—an excellent sign.

The farmer is pretty safe for some time to come. But few of them have money, but they can live. They can't make much headway toward paying debts, but the creditor can't make much headway collecting by selling mortgaged property, for there is no demand. The farmer can't spend much on improvements or in educating his children, but he knows his city neighbor is getting into the same hole and will soon join hands with him in the effort to climb out, and united efforts will bring lasting results. The merchant, professional man and banker are all going down with the farmer. But the farmer hasn't got far to fall and will not get hurt so badly. He will be ready to say to his neighbors: "I told you so," and they will then start hand in hand to bring about a change, and that is all there is to encourage us to continue the fight for political reform. But that is enough, and it is coming.

CUBAN AFFAIRS.

Even yet there is doubt about the death of Maceo, the Cuban general. Some assert positively that he was killed, some say he was betrayed, while others assert that he was killed on an open battlefield. Others believe that he is yet alive. At any rate the war goes on. Cuba is winning sympathy and aid. Much money has been raised and forwarded from the United States. Trained nurses are going over, and volunteers from this country are going to her aid. Men from Colorado, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Texas and Connecticut are now on their way or getting ready to slip away to Cuba. It is a violation of the neutrality laws for them to go openly. A committee of one hundred citizens in Chicago is raising food supplies, which the Cubans claim they need more than men. A mass meeting was held in Atlanta Friday and many men volunteered to start at once if a company could be formed. The filibustering steamer, "Three Friends," has again escaped from the Florida coast with 400,000 rounds of ammunition, cannon and other supplies for the Cubans. She has done the same trick several times lately, though closely watched by two United States warships, the Raleigh and Newark, and pursued by them. But it is not believed that our navy sets up all night watching such things.

As usual North Carolina is not making any noise, but if there is anything needed to protect American interests and honor she will be on the spot with all four feet.

IT GROWS WORSE.

Some time ago we mentioned that North Carolina soil was hard to beat, and named six pound turnips as one of the leading products. We had an idea that larger turnips have been grown here, but we thought six pounders a fair average turnip. Quite recently several of our exchanges have added to the gayety by stating that Mr. So and so has shown the editors thereof turnips weighing eight, ten, twelve and fourteen pounds. Now the Boone Democrat comes forward with this item:

"We will say to the Gastonia Gazette that the fourteen pound turnip, in his possession, is hardly a drop in the bucket to some raised in Watauga. What would you think of a turnip that weighs thirty pounds?"

We believe that the editor of the Democrat can come about as near telling the truth in a turnip discussion as

any editor in the State, if he will try, but that is the question.

In order that no mistake be made in this serious matter we have interviewed State Librarian Ellington, who has taken several turnip premiums in his day, and is an authority on anything relating thereto. He stated that twelve and fifteen pound turnips are possible. Some years ago he planted a very rich field in turnips, on his Johnson county farm, and they broke all previous records. They grew so rapidly that many of them were lifted out of the ground by the more sturdy ones, and died on the spot. When harvest time came the ones that were not pushed out of the ground by the others, weighed from ten to fifteen pounds, three filling a half bushel measure every time. Senator Farthing, of Watauga, was here last week, and dropped in to see us. The question of thirty pound turnips came up and we asked him if Watauga had really produced such turnips. He declared that she had not, to his knowledge, and he knows the county pretty well. But State Librarian Edington asserts that fifteen pounders can be raised, and that goes. Any statement about heavier ones will be turned down at this office unless accompanied by the turnip itself and an affidavit by five or six well known citizens, and at least two of them must be regularly ordained ministers of the gospel.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We would not say anything to discourage our many correspondents for a great deal, and what we are going to write will not be considered anything of the sort, we are sure. We are going to ask you, one and all, to write plainly in the future. Typesetting costs money, and we have a certain amount of space to fill every week. If part of the matter is badly written it consumes a great deal of time, extra time, for the printer to decipher what the writer may term writing, but which, in reality, is nothing but irregular pen or pencil marks.

We know that all of our correspondents can write plainly if they will. Some words are plainly written while the very next may be undecipherable. We hope none of our friends will send any carelessly written manuscript in the future. Please don't. Write slowly and distinctly. If you can't do any better, rewrite the article. You probably can improve it by so doing. We don't want any spencerian flourishing or shading. Your fingers may be stiff, but you can write plain. Most of the best writers in the country have their articles typewritten or rewritten by a plain writer, frequently rewriting everything before it is sent for publication. Our correspondents can't undertake so much, but they can write a legible hand.

GETTING IT IN THE NECK.

Recently a number of banks have gone into voluntary liquidation, giving as a reason that business is so bad that they can't afford to continue. We expect they will get enough of their gold standard and come to their senses, though the change will be slow. As a matter of fact the small bankers are the victims of the single standard as much as any other class of citizens. It is the millionaire bondholders and railroad wreckers who are reaping the harvest out of all this trouble. But the smaller bankers have been as loud in their silly financial claptrap as any, and they will not get much sympathy when they are forced to go out of business or fail, as dozens of them are doing every week. The people are getting their eyes open faster now than at any period since the panic started, and it means that they will settle the business in a sensible way when they get another chance.

INDIANS DID IT.

Some people like Indians. We don't. They have been the cause of a lot of trouble. They are responsible for the long names attached to some of the crack farms around Durham. When Col. J. S. Carr fastened "Ocooneechee" to his farm the seed were sown. But he has made a pretty place of it, and we had decided to forgive him.

The next outbreak was made by Col. Al. Fairbrother when he christened his "You Be Yam Farm" just outside of the corporation, and used A Hatchet to cut the name on the side of a hill. This ought to have called out a detachment of the State guard, but it didn't, and the trouble grows apace. Some law-breaking citizen up there has named his place Wawayandah-whoop-pee Farm. This thing has gone far enough. First thing you know you will arouse a spirit of rivalry and some Raleighite will call his farm Hoo hoo boo ram kate-on-the-Neuse, or something of the sort, and then there will be war.

The fellow who was afraid of a "fifty cent dollar" will be glad to get any kind of a dollar before the thing is done with.—Cedartown, Ga. Courier.

PRITCHARD ENTERS A DENIAL.

Senator Pritchard sent the following letter to the Charlotte Observer on the 17th, and gives the public to understand that the fight for the Senatorship will not be made according to the Markquis of Hanna rules in the coming legislature:

"Will you permit me through the columns of your paper to refer to a statement contained in this week's Caucasian to the effect that there is 'a bold, brazen and deep laid scheme on the part of Mark Hanna and his allies to capture the legislature of North Carolina.' The intimation contained in the article in question, to the effect that Mr. Hanna and his committee will attempt to buy the votes of Populist members of the legislature, is entirely without foundation. No such thing has ever been contemplated by the Republican party and the statement referred to is made with a view of intimidating those Populist members who recognize it to be their duty to comply with the agreement entered into two years ago between the two parties as well as to observe the pledges made to their constituents during the last campaign. The people of North Carolina are honest and conservative and I resent the intimation that any member of the North Carolina legislature will sell his vote for United States Senator or on any other question. Respectfully,

(Signed) J. C. PRITCHARD. But Pritchard has pursued a course recently that does not entitle his denials to much consideration among people who cannot be humbugged.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

There will be no paper issued from this office on Dec 29th. The next will appear January 5th. This is in accordance with an old custom among weekly papers. Some argue that there should be no holiday suspension. But unless there is the employees can get no rest at all during the year. We believe that subscribers are willing to grant a week for rest after having been served faithfully for fifty-one weeks out of fifty-two. We hope all of our subscribers will enjoy themselves during the holidays and be ready to start in with the beginning of the New Year refreshed and stronger than ever in the faith.

During the holidays please send in what you owe and renew for the future. We want to revise our list about the first of January and hope that it will not be necessary to cut off even one name. Many subscriptions expire January 1. Renew promptly. During 1897 THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER will be better than ever before. We will endeavor to give, in addition to regular matter, full reports of the legislature and the proceedings of Congress, now in session. Any one of the several departments of the paper will be well worth the subscription price, and you can't afford to do without it. We must keep up this fight for reform until we get it, no matter how long it takes. Those of our friends who have so kindly gotten up clubs in the past will confer a favor by renewing their efforts along that line. We want all our old subscribers to continue and add many new ones.

VOTES AND VOTING.

The Chicago Record says: "It will be noticed by a reference to the election returns that the city of Chicago cast 19,038 more votes than all the silver States combined, and 6,000 more than all the Gulf States combined, omitting Texas. The State of Illinois cast more votes than all the cotton States combined, and two thirds as many as all the States between the Missouri river and the Pacific."

Yes, and it will be noticed that there is a well-grounded suspicion that more votes were deposited than there are voters, not only in Illinois, but in Indiana, Iowa, and several other close States. That Democratic Bourbon methods were adopted by Republican managers in many sections, there is no shadow of doubt, and it is useless for the Republican party to longer pose as one favoring honest elections. It is as completely under the control of Wall streets as the Democratic administration and will be exactly on par with the King Democratic gang of thugs.

TO RECOGNIZE CUBA.

On last Friday the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the independence of the Republic of Cuba be, and the same is hereby, acknowledged by the United States of America."

"Section 2. That the United States will use its friendly offices with the government of Spain to bring to a close the war between Spain and Cuba."

This brings matters to a focus. Some time will be allowed for discussion in both Houses, and it is not likely that final action will be taken until Jan-

uary. It is understood that fully two thirds of the numbers of both Houses are in favor of the passage of these resolutions, and that they will be passed over the President's veto, if he should adopt such a course.

This does not mean war with Spain, though it may cause a lot of talk. Spain is a game country, but is not great enough in military strength to fight any first class nation, and besides, she is badly crippled now in the war with Cuba and the Phillipine Islands. To recognize Cuba it simply means that the insurgents can purchase supplies or arms in the United States, and have any other privileges that we might accord to England, France, Germany, or any independent nation.

CONGRESSIONAL DOINGS.

Senator Call introduced resolutions denouncing the death of Maceo, Monday. Representative Howard introduced resolutions recognizing Cuba in the House on the same day. No action was taken.

Senator Allen wants an investigation of the manner in which the goldbug campaign fund was used in the last campaign.

The House passed three or four of the regular appropriation bills during the week.

The immigration bill passed the Senate on Thursday. It requires that all foreigners coming to this country be able to read sections of our Constitution printed in their language, before they are entitled to land and become citizens. This, it is said, will restrict immigration. Hope so.

A number of pension bills were passed during the week. And with one accord they all drew their salaries.

ENCOURAGEMENT IN THIS.

It was gratifying to read in the Raleigh correspondence of the Observer yesterday that forty five members-elect of the legislature have written that they favor increasing the school term to four months in the year. This may be assumed to mean that they will vote for a school tax which will effect this, and it is to be hoped that a majority of the members will be found to be of like mind. The last legislature set the next one a praiseworthy example in increasing the school tax. Necessarily this sort of improvement comes along slowly, but it ought never to be permitted to stop. If the legislature to assemble next month will provide the means whereby the school term will be increased to four months, its successor will be encouraged to make the term five, and thus presently we will have a public school system under which the children of the State may be really educated and the burden of taxation will have been increased so gradually that the people will scarcely have felt the increase. The last legislature atoned for many sins in the liberality with which it dealt with the cause of education and the State's charitable institutions. In these two directions lie the best opportunity of the next one to do the State a service and to commend itself to public gratitude.—Charlotte Observer.

AN INNOCENT MAN IN THE PEN.

Governor Carr has pardoned Henry Smith, of Asheville, and thus ended a very sensational case. Smith, while working on the railroad in Davidson county, passed the house of a man named Ellington, and one day all of Ellington's money—one thousand, two hundred dollars, was missing. Smith was arrested and sentenced to twelve years in the penitentiary. Last week the money which Smith was charged with stealing was found in the possession of Ellington's son, who, during a drunken spree, had taken and hid it. He forgot the place where he had placed it, but discovered it by accident and gave the money to his father, who at once reported the fact to Governor Carr.

KEEP THE ALLIANCE WARM.

With wood or coal you can keep your bodies warm. You can also keep your hall warm in the same manner, but it needs something more than such stuff to keep the Alliance warm. Love for the order will be necessary to keep the Alliance warm. As soon as the love you bear for it is extinguished the warmth will disappear and coldness will rush in and fill its place. Therefore keep the lamps of love brightly burning and let your presence add cheer to every Alliance meeting. Do not forget to talk and work while in your meeting as well as outside. Always have a good word to say for the order. Explain the advantages which might be gained by closer cooperation in the Alliance room. Help the unfortunate; stimulate the strong; relieve the oppressed; cheer the faint and promote the morals, not alone of your own circle but of the entire neighborhood and thus help bind all of your neighbors into one band of fraternal friendship.—Pennsylvania Alliance Advocate.

CREAM OF THE PRESS.

Hard Hits, Bold Sayings and Patriotic Paragraphs From Reform Papers.

Improve your time by attending Alliance meetings. You will also thus help improve the Alliance.—Pa. Alliance Advocate.

President Cleveland could not find a place in these United States to suit him, so he has secured a home in New Jersey. Tough on Jersey!—American Enterprise.

It is about time for Cleveland to remove some members of his Cabinet for pernicious partisan activity in trying to elect McKinley.—Advocate, Charles town, W. Va.

Once in awhile we hear of a family that takes no paper at all. We can scarcely understand how the people in that home entertain themselves.—Progressive Home.

Some people vote for the men they don't want elected, to emphasize their dislike of methods surrounding candidates they would be pleased to support under better auspices.—Financial and Industrial Educator, Denver, Col.

Now that the manufacturers have done as McKinley bade them and have started up some of their mills, perhaps the President elect will inform an anxious public whence will come the money to buy the products.—Lafayette, Va. Union.

One hundred and sixteen thousand Palmer and buskerites are going to reorganize six million Democrats. This is like the one inch stub of a Newfoundland dog's tail, wagging the whole anatomy of his dogship.—Advocate, Charlestown, W. Va.

Cleveland and Carlisle saddled a bonded debt of \$262,000,000 upon the people, but it could have been prevented by the Democratic House and Senate which were elected in 1892. No attempt to curb them was made, however, except by Populists.—World, Chillicothe, Mo.

Linn, the Populist candidate for Governor in Minnesota, ran 20,000 votes ahead of Bryan. Thus the votes show up in every State where the Populists put out a straight ticket. In Texas the Populist vote was about 80,000 more than that of 1894 when the immortal Nugent was candidate for Governor.—Southern Mercury.

That Brooklyn man who has started on the back of a donkey to ride to San Francisco, as the result of an old-time wager (Bryan's defeat), will have a congenial companion under him. The two are so well mated that occasionally the fellow should dismount and carry his long eared companion. When the two arrive in San Francisco, they should hire out to some one who admires a well matched team.—American Enterprise.

There is no mistaking the fact that the result of the election in the United States is very satisfactory to all the great industrial and manufacturing industries of Mexico. Mexico's silver standard has not only offered protection to the industries of the republic, but the advantage of making goods and raising products under a silver standard and selling under the gold standard of the United States is one that Mexican interests do not want to lose.

ALL FORGIVEN.

The matter of State aid to the University and other higher educational institutions is attracting much attention now. Our genial friend, Col. Webster, of the Reidsville Weekly, is championing the cause of State aid with zeal and ability, and knowing his interest in the matter we expected to see in his paper last week a half column or so of editorial on the subject. To our surprise, however, he contents himself with a beggarly paragraph of three and a half or four columns. Knowing that it was not lack of argument or zeal for the cause that was restraining the Colonel, we had begun to think that he was not living up to his duties and opportunities in this instance, but the mystery has since been explained. The Colonel is to be married next Tuesday, and it is not to be expected that an editor can write long editorials on weighty subjects when such a momentous event of such vital concern to himself is so near at hand. The Colonel is excused.—Statesville Landmark.

Failures are very rare in Mexico—the credit of good houses is as good as gold. American wholesalers are learning that to compete with European exporters they must give longer time on accounts than they are used to in the States. It is a custom of the country that must be conformed to. They are also learning that they should have a local house, or at least an agency, in Mexico, where their wares can be seen, and then advertise consistently and persistently, that the public may know what they have to sell and where it can be bought.